



What were the Goals of the 1994 SFA?

- To have every district raise 40 mills.
- To have a system that was 50-50 split between state and local.
- To start every district at a “base amount” of funding.
- To make adjustments for school district size, costs of living, and at-risk.
- This formula was adopted prior to Colorado moving to a standards based education and prior to accountability systems of schools, districts and professionals.
- The focus was providing access for students not achievement for all

The Order of Revenues Collected

- Local revenues are a combination of ownership taxes collected from vehicles and local property taxes.
 - Mills are set by the state and the counties collect revenues for the school district.
 - If a county does not collect all the revenues that have been calculated then the district must absorb loss.
- The state will then add dollars to each districts local portion to create an “equalized amount” as the starting point for each district.
- State dollars have been reduced with the “negative factor”

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Evaluating the Success of the 1994 Act

- Currently mill levies range from less than 2 to 27.
- The average state local split is 62% state / 38% local.
- The “base” amount and adjustments for size, cost of living and at-risk have been reduced differently in every district with the negative factor.
- Colorado’s standards based system is in it’s third iteration – and the accountability system continues to strengthen requirements for students, teachers, schools, districts and states for success.

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Categoricals

- Categoricals – are special education, English Language learners, Gifted and talented, transportation and career and tech
- They are not funded through the school finance formula
- They are not adjusted for need or size
- Special ed dollars cover 30% of costs
- ELL dollars cover less than 30% of costs
- GT dollars provide enough for assessments
- Transportation – state covers vary – on average 25% of costs
- CTE – amounts vary by program – but woefully underfunded

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Steps in Changing to a New System

- Identifying resources needed so districts can meet the State's accountability expectations.
- Identifying what a proper "base amount" or starting point is for the formula.
- Identifying what adjustments need to be made for students, districts, and economies of scale.
- Begin with research and analysis – this was recommended to the legislature by NCSL.
- This recommendation is being done by CSFP and APA.

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Stay Tuned

- Research is in process of being complete – within next 30 days for phase one and full report within 60 days.
- Will provide basis and rationale for moving forward
- Will be aligned to the expectations that districts must meet based on current law and statutes

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Questions: Now & Later

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